



On the farm in Utah where I grew up, there was a large barn that always had pigeons in its loft. One day, I decided I'd like to capture a baby pigeon, so I climbed up to the loft, even though my father had forbidden me to go there.

As I reached for a pigeon, the rest all flew away, which frightened me so much that I fell out of the loft. Luckily, I fell in some soft hay.

My father ran over and said, "Are you hurt, son?" I answered shakily, "N-n-no." When he found that I was all right, he turned me over his knee and spanked me. I never climbed up in the loft again!

Today, 60 years later, the barn still stands, although part of the roof collapsed recently. It's still a favorite subject for artists.

Francis Tate built the barn from red pines believed to be taken from the Snake Creek Canyon. It was a timber-frame barn built with mortise-and-tenon construction and wooden dowels. It was the first of its kind in Wasatch County and is now part of a state park.

—Andrew Besendorfer, Midway, Utah



ALTHOUGH weathered, the Tate Barn in Utah remains a commanding presence. Andrew Besendorfer, who grew up on this farm, says the barn is especially popular with local artists.